



# MERRYLANDS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SPRING TERM – FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 2026

### MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL – MRS PRYER

It has been a very busy week with a focus on careers and aspirations. The week started with a visit from our local MP Richard Holden, who gave us an insight into his role and why he wanted to be an MP. We also had a number of visitors speak about their jobs, giving the children a wider understanding of opportunities available to them. Further information about careers and aspirations week will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Another highlight this week was the choir singing at Young Voices at the o2. It was a fantastic experience and I know the staff and the children's families are all very proud of them - well done to everyone involved.

Starting on Monday, the Berlesduna Trust is holding a Times Tables Rock Stars competition. The competition is open to all children in year 3 to 6. Each school will be competing to be the winning school. If your child/ren are in year 3 to 6 please encourage them to practise their times tables skills at home and participate in the competition - see the poster later in the newsletter for further information.

On Wednesday 4th February and Thursday 5th February, parent consultation meetings will be taking place for all children from Reception to year 6. Remember to book an appointment via ParentMail if you have not arranged one yet.

I hope you all have a good weekend.



**School Attendance Target: 95.00 %**



**This week's attendance: 93.85%**

**The class with the best attendance in KS1 was Mrs Didham's Class with 99.54 %**

**The class with the best attendance in KS2 was Miss Medina's Class with 97.62 %**

**If your child is absent, contact must be made to the School Office EVERY school day that your child is absent.**

**Please report your child's absence by phone 01268 417893, ParentMail or by email: [admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk).**

**RESPECT**

**KINDNESS**

**PERSEVERANCE**

# STAR OF THE WEEK CERTIFICATE

## FOCUS : KINDNESS

Nursery: Bella A

Nest: Rex P

ASC: Ronny O'D

Reception, Mrs Anthony: Tysha B

Reception, Mrs Sullivan: David G

Reception, Miss Bagridge: Noah M

Year 1, Mrs King: Oliver B

Year 1, Mrs Camoccio: Graciella W

Year 1, Mrs Andrade: Daniel G

Year 2, Mrs Didham: Erika G

Year 2, Miss Milne: Isla P

Year 2, Mrs Christie/Mrs Cooper: Max L

Year 3, Mrs Almond: Holly W

Year 3, Miss Gilmore: Gagu D

Year 3, Miss Medina: Violet H

Year 4, Miss Lee: Sofija S

Year 4, Miss Miller: Ava H

Year 4, Miss Atkin: Teia S

Year 5, Miss Day: Daisy S

Year 5, Mr Taylor: Louie G

Year 5, Miss Osborne: Maria I

Year 6, Miss White: Amira G

Year 6, Mrs Thour: Emilia B

## BADGES



Our Merrylands badges are given to the pupils who demonstrate the school values at all times.

They are good role models to other pupils and work hard to improve every single day. They try their best and persevere in all lessons, complete homework on time, have good school attendance and show kindness to their peers.

Reception	Evie P
Year 1	Hunter T
Year 2	Ethen W
Year 3	Harris B
Year 4	Blerisa G
Year 5	Megan P
Year 6	Luke B

## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

### JANUARY

02.02.26 National Story Telling Week

04.02.26 Parents Evening & Book Fair

05.02.26 Parents Evening & Book Fair

11.02.26 Safer Internet Day

13.02.26 Chinese New Year Special Lunch



RESPECT

KINDNESS

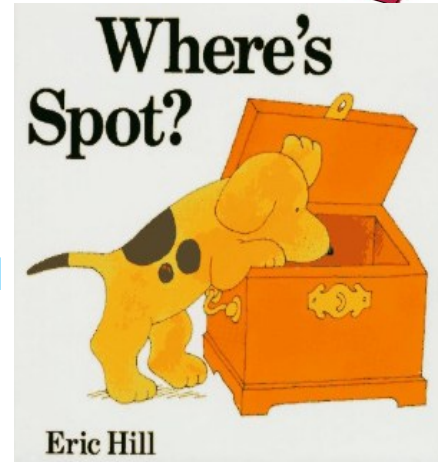
PERSEVERANCE

# BOOK OF THE WEEK



The children in the Nest have been reading the book 'Where's Spot?' by Eric Hill.

This is an interactive book for children where they join in to help Spot find his puppy. The book offers the children a fun and engaging read that has been exciting for all and has kept the children guessing.



# YOUNG VOICES O2 PERFORMANCE



On Wednesday 21st January, the KS2 Choir attended the o2 Young Voices performance.

The children travelled to London eager to perform. The children and staff had a wonderful day performing and watching other schools perform.

Well done to you all, we are so very proud of the hard work you have put in during the weeks leading up to this performance!

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Sportsperson of the Half Term...

### Alex Yee

#### Who is Alex Yee?

Alex Yee is a triathlete from Lewisham, England. He was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1998 and has grown up to be the most successful Olympic triathlete ever. Alex was inspired by the 2012 Olympic Games and his father's duathlons which prompted him to start serious training at a young age.

#### What has Alex achieved?

Alex Yee is one of the most successful Olympic triathletes of all time. At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, Alex won an individual silver medal and a mixed relay gold. At the next Olympics, Alex won an individual gold medal and a mixed relay bronze. He also won a gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

In 2025, at the London Marathon, Alex made his marathon debut clocking an impressive time of 02:11:08 to cross the line in 14th place, and the second Brit.



## Complete the Clock

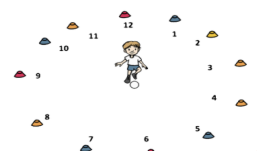


What you need: twelve markers, one ball

#### How to play:

- Create a circle with the markers. Identify where the numbers would be if it was a clock.
- Kick your ball through each of the gaps.
- Repeat, this time once through 1 o'clock, twice through 2 o'clock, all the way to twelve times through 12 o'clock.

Make this harder by asking someone to time you. How quickly you can complete the clock?



RESPECT

KINDNESS

PERSISTENCE

On Monday 26th January 2026 children will return to school on Week 1.

Please ensure all school lunches are paid for in advance on ScoPay.

Please let the office staff know if there are any changes to your child's dietary needs.



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*Lighter Bites*



OUR LIGHTER LUNCH OPTIONS OF JACKET POTATO & HAM OR CHEESE BAGUETTE ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL PUPILS EVERYDAY



MONDAY  
TUESDAY  
WEDNESDAY  
THURSDAY  
FRIDAY

**WEEK 1**

CHICKEN FAJITA WRAP  
QUORN FAJITA WRAP  
WITH POTATO CUBES & SALAD BAR  
DESSERT - FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

SAUSAGE ROLL  
VEGAN ROLL  
WITH SMILEY FACES & SPAGHETTI LOOPS  
DESSERT - HOMEMADE ICED SPRINKLE CAKE  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

HOMEMADE CHICKEN PIE  
QUORN & VEGETABLE PIE  
WITH SAUTE POTATOES, CARROTS & GRAVY  
DESSERT - FLAPJACK  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT

CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA  
WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & SALAD BAR  
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY  
FRESH FRUIT

FISH FINGERS  
CHEDDAR WHIRL  
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS  
DESSERT - STRAWBERRY SWIRL MOUSSE  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

**WEEK 2**

BEEF MEATBALLS  
VEGAN MEATBALLS  
WITH PASTA IN HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & PEAS  
DESSERT - AMERICAN PANCAKES & GOLDEN SYRUP  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BUTCHERS CHICKEN NUGGETS  
VEGETABLE NUGGETS  
WITH CHIPS & BAKED BEANS  
DESSERT - HOMEMADE SPONGE CAKE & CUSTARD  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS PORK SAUSAGE  
VEGAN SAUSAGES  
WITH MASH POTATO, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, PEAS, CARROTS & GRAVY  
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY  
FRESH FRUIT

CHICKEN CURRY  
VEGETABLE CURRY  
WITH STEAMED RICE & SWEETCORN  
DESSERT - GOLDEN OAT FLAPJACK  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

BATTERED FISH  
VEGETABLE FINGERS  
WITH SMILEY FACES & PEAS  
DESSERT - ICE CREAM  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT

**WEEK 3**

BREADED CHICKEN BURGER  
QUORN BURGER  
WITH CHIPS & SALAD BAR  
DESSERT - HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE SPRINKLE CAKE  
FRESH FRUIT + YOGURT

BACON MACARONI CHEESE  
MACARONI CHEESE  
WITH PEAS  
DESSERT - SEASONAL FRUIT & YOGHURT

BUTCHERS ROAST CHICKEN  
QUORN FILLET  
WITH ROAST POTATOES, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, GREEN BEANS, CARROTS & GRAVY  
DESSERT - FRUIT JELLY

BEEF BOLOGNESE  
VEGETABLE BOLOGNESE  
WITH FUSILLI PASTA & MIXED VEGETABLES  
DESSERT - HOMEMADE FLAPJACK  
FRESH FRUIT + YOGURT

FISH FINGERS  
CHEESE OMELETTE  
WITH POTATO WEDGES & SPAGHETTI HOOPS  
DESSERT - CHOCOLATE SWIRL MOUSSE  
FRESH FRUIT & YOGURT



**BERLESDUNA**  
ACADEMY TRUST

# **TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS**

**SPRING COMPETITION**

Starting: 26/01/26  
Ending: 30/01/26

**ROCK YOUR  
TIMES TABLES!**



**Who Will Be the Ultimate Rock Star?**



# PE & JEWELLERY SAFETY UPDATE



## Why Do Children Need To Remove Earrings For PE?

For children to enjoy PE safely, this is why earrings need to be removed:

- Earrings and studs can easily get caught on equipment and clothing. Even small earrings can cause significant injuries to the wearer and other children.
- Wearing earrings in PE increases unnecessary risks.

## Merrylands PE Jewellery Rules

- No Earrings or studs (metal or plastic) in PE lessons or sporting activities.
- Taping earrings is not allowed as it does not prevent injury.

## What Parent/Carers Can Do To Help

- Encourage your child to leave earrings at home on PE days.
- Ensure your child can remove their earrings themselves and put back in independently after PE lessons.
- Consider getting your child's ears pierced at the start of the summer holidays as it can take up to 6 weeks for the piercing site to be fully healed and earrings to be safely removed.

## Special Circumstances

- If your child has an injury to their ear, infection or a concern about the piercing hole closing up too soon we will work with you to ensure missed PE lessons remain limited.

This may include parents/guardians coming up to the school to remove and then replace the earrings for the child.

## If Earrings Cannot Be Removed

- Pupils who cannot remove their earrings themselves will not be able to take part in PE lessons for their own safety.
- Non-participation cards are available to ensure every child is included in a lesson or an alternative activity will be provided.



# **SEND School Age Drop-in**

**An opportunity to get advice and support  
in a relaxed and non judgemental  
environment**

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-  
diagnosed children welcome.

**1st Wednesday of the month  
12:00 - 13:00**

**No need to book - Just drop in!**

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**Northlands Park Family Hub  
Davenants, Basildon Essex SS13 1QX**

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**Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service**